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THE GULL

MONTHLY BULLETIN

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Young White-tailed Kite, Grizzly Is. Photo by A. Warren Larson

EAST AFRICAN BIRD PROGRAM—JULY 11

In the area around Lake Nakuru, Kenya, 380 species of birds can be found. Lake Nakuru is the scene of the phenomenal flocking of the Lesser Flamingo which Peterson called "the most staggering bird speetaele" in his 38 years of birdwatching. These East African birds will be shown in a slide program by John B. D. Hopcraft of Kenya on **Thursday, July 11 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Rotary Natural Science Center, Lakeside Park, Oakland. This will be an *unofficial* program for Golden Gate Audubon Society as we do not have regular meetings in July.

Lake Nakuru and the foreshore are now a National Park—the first one in Africa *for birds.* Mr. Hopcraft is working on a Bird Observatory- Research Station project there and has come to the United States to study our bird sanctuaries. He has no financial backing for such study and contributions will be welcome in a donation box after the program. We shall meet for a no-host dinner at 6:30 p.m. in Lovely's Buffet, 336 Grand Avenue at Perkins Street.—MRS. PHYLLIS ZWEIGART, *Program Chmn.*

There will be no regular meeting of Golden Gate Audubon Society in August. The next issue of *The Gull* will be published in September.

JULY FIELD TRIPS

Saturday-Sunday, July 13-14, California Alpine Lodge at Echo Summit near Echo Lake in the High Sierra. Many birds of the Canadian and Transition zones may be seen there. From Sacramento take Highway 50 via Placerville to Echo Lake sign. Turn off Highway 50 here and go to end of road one mile. For reservations write to Charles Blake, California Alpine Club (Echo), Little Norway, Calif. 95721, stating time of arrival and departure and number of meals desired. Only dormitory aceommodations are now available. Approximate cost for week-end lodging and meals will be $10. Send $5 deposit to Charles Blake. *Reservations should be made* 10 *days in advance.* Send self-addressed postcard for aeknowledgment. Bring your own bedding and a knapsack. Campers may stay at The Firs Public Campground nearby. For bus service to Little Norway (one mile from the Lodge) check with Greyhound. Field trips will start at California Alpine Lodge at **9 a.m.** and **2 p.m.** Saturday. Leader, Miss Patrieia Triggs, 664-8502.

There will be no regular field trips in August. However, the following areas are recommended for a day's visit:

Coyote Hills Regional Park—north of Dumbarton Bridge and Newark From Nimitz Freeway take Jarvis Ave. exit. drive west on Jarvis Ave. to Newark Blvd. (first signal light), turn right (north) for about a mile and then left on Patterson Ranch Rd. at the Stanford Research Institute sign. This road leads to parking and pienic areas near the hills. This newly acquired park has a fine braekish water marsh and a big slough. A trail leads to salt ponds on San Francisco Bay. White-tailed Kites nest near the marshes. (Editor's Note: Visit this 1,000-acre park *before it is spoiled by*

development. According to the Oakland *Tribune* of May 19 the 50-year master plan by park surveyors includes a **motel, restaurant, sports stadium, golf course, and yacht harbors with berths for 3,000 boats!)**

Starting in early August shorebirds returning from their northern nesting grounds should be looked for wherever a marsh is accessible. **The Nature Walk at the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor** is a good area to explore.

From the end of August through the middle of September look for Sooty Shearwaters, which often flock by the thousands (especially late in the afternoon) foraging for food while on their way to breeding grounds in New Zealand. Some of the observation points: In San Francisco from the Fleishhacker Zoo area to the Cliff House and outer bay view areas in the Presidio; in Marin County—Point Bonita in the Rodeo Lagoon-Fort Cronkhite area and on Highway #1 along the route to Stinson Beach.

Also from the end of August through September and early October look for Elegant Terns (post-breeding wanderer from Baja California) close in to shore and on the Bay. Jaegers are occasionally seen chasing the terns.

Starting from the middle of August check your own backyard and neighborhood parks for stray migrating birds which are sometimes blown off their regular course because of weather conditions. Utmost care should be taken in identifying fall birds, especially warblers, as the plumage at this time of year can be confusing. Please do not hesitate to call for help on identification or verification if in doubt.—MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman.*

SEPTEMBER BOAT TRIP

Saturday, September 7, boat trip off Monterey. This trip has been primarily planned for the purpose of observing and studying pelagic mammals and birds. Only one boat is available; therefore, Audubon members and their guests will have first choice on reservations. Fare: $7 per person. Make check payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society and send to Mrs. Valeria G. DaCosta, 2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco 94109 with a *stamped, self-addressed envelope* and indicate your Audubon or other conservation affiliation. *Deadline for reservations will be August* 15 *or earlier if the boat is filled.* Details will be sent with acknowledgment.

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

WATER—WATER—WATER! Thirsty, overcrowded but still "developing" Southern California is still crying for more, even beyond the vast amounts to be supplied from the Oroville Dam. Now the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposes a gargantuan Dos Rios High Dam on the Eel River watershed, a reservoir to exceed Shasta and Oroville combined, to drown the valley surrounding Covelo, and to endanger wildlife and salmon and steelhead runs. (See Feb. 68 *Gull*). Cities claim flood control values of such a dam would be insignificant and that costs of water export to Southern California would exceed that of sea water desalinization at Los Angeles by 1980. Smaller scale, alternate water supplies are available. Save the

Eel River Association, Box 38, Covelo, will supply you more facts—as will the Army Corps of Engineers, we presume. All Northern Californians should study this issue.

A future National Wildlife Refuge on San Francisco Bay is being studied by Fish and Wildlife Service officials and research teams. An ad hoc group calling themselves the South San Francisco Baylands Planning, Conservation and National Wildlife Refuge Committee (what about just initials?) is plugging for their area rather than a North Bay-Napa Marsh area also under study. Recent discovery of a large herd of harbor seals in South Bay—reported close to 400 including many pups—has given considerable impetus to this drive. Of course, Audubon also protects some hundreds of acres of marsh and tideflat in South Bay, but only in token leases which could be terminated any time commercial developments require. Mr. Arthur Ogilvie of Santa Clara County Planning Dept., 70 West Hedding, San Jose, will receive letters or give more information.

Speaking of new refuges, most of us feel that South Farallon Island should be added to the National Wildlife Refuge system, now that the Coast Guard has withdrawn its lighthouse crew there in favor of an automated light. This important bird rookery demands greater protection.

An urgent plea for passage of Redwood National Park legislation was presented to the House Sub-committee on National Parks and Recreation on May 21 by Exec. Vice-President Charles Callison. Funds for such a park may depend on passage of either House or Senate bills to increase the Land and Water Conservation Fund. In spite of a House vote of 336 to 13 in favor of such a bill the Senate had amended out all monies as of June 1.

Your Conservation Chairman followed the many V.I.P.'s and committees to the controversial Humboldt-Del Norte redwood country on an independent fact finding and picture-taking trip in mid-May. This trip paid off well for these objectives, not excluding some good arguments from the "opposition." But those logged-off, devastated areas look just like the posters!

The mounting dispute between the Federal government and various states over control of fish and game could result in loss of protection for Golden and American Bald Eagles and handicapping of National Park, Forest Service and National Wildlife Refuge personnel in essential game management if some bills introduced in Congress to protect states' rights should pass. This first came as a warning from Mr. Callison to Audubon members some months ago and was repeated at Asilomar. This legislation must be closely watched!—PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman.*

ECOLOGY COURSE FOR OAKLAND MUSEUM DOCENT PROGRAM

A special introductory course designed to prepare volunteer docents—laymen trained to serve as exhibit interpreters—for the Natural Science Division of the new Oakland Museum will be offered during the fall of this year by the Museum in cooperation with the Oakland Museum Association.

The Oakland Museum's Natural Science Division will feature an ecological "Walk Across California"—a dramatic portrayal of the interrelationship of plants and animals to each other and to their environment. The exhibits will emphasize eight diverse regions of the state stretching from the coast to the deserts. An integral part of the education program of the Natural Science Division will be the use of a corps of volunteer docents who will help to define and explain the displays.

The training course for the docents will be offered under the direction of the Natural Sciences staff and will cover the fundamentals of ecology and the eight regions of California that will form the basic exhibits. Laboratory exercises and field trips to some of the regions will be included. The introductory part of the course will commence in mid-September and will be given for a period of 13 weeks in 3-hour sessions once a week. The course will be offered in both a morning and an evening session. The cost of the course is $30, and financial assistance will be provided if needed both through installment payments and scholarships.

For further information on the program and for a personal interview, please contact the Oakland Museum Association, 274-19th St., Oakland 94612, 893-4257.—BRUCE BLAKE, *Executive Director*, Oakland Museum Association.

AUDUBON NATURE TRAINING PROGRAM

This year 196 persons attended the 15 Audubon Nature Training courses—more than double the number when the program started in 1964-65. Of these, 69 were teachers, 98 were youth group leaders, and 29 were parents. The latter included 10 who took an additional course developed to meet a special community need for school resource volunteers to assist classroom teachers. Of the 196 total there were 78 from Berkeley, 23 from Oakland, 57 from west Contra Costa County (mainly Richmond), 14 from east Contra Costa County, 13 from San Francisco and Peninsula cities, and 11 from other areas.

We received an appreciative testimonial from the Director of the Cameron Day Camp in San Francisco:

"I would like to commend your department (Berkeley Recreation and Parks) for your sponsorship of the Audubon Nature Training program. Five directors from the Cameron Day Camp have recently finished four sessions for Day Camp Leaders there and found it extremely valuable in giving us ideas and motivating us for our job of teaching children this summer. Phyllis Lindley is very skilled in presenting material and we enjoyed every minute there."

"A BIRDWATCHER'S GUIDE TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA"

August is the best month to visit the Mt. Pinos Condor Observation Site. A map and complete directions are in the new paperback book, *A Birdwatcher's Guide to Southern California*, by James A. Lane, who is also the author of the Southeastern Arizona guide. Mr. Lane suggests when you stop for gas, food or other supplies in the area, be sure to tell the merchant that you are there to see the Condors so that the local residents will realize the Condors are a "tourist attraction" worth saving.

This helpful book includes a Mt. Pinos loop drive with suggestions for a side trip to look for LeConte's Thrasher in the south end of the San Joaquin Valley.

The main text is divided into 15 loop trips through the better birding areas; the outstanding spots are shown in bold-face type. Total mileage and minimum time are indicated for each trip and mileage is also shown to each point of interest. A special "Express Loop" trip through Southern California is outlined to cover 809 miles in 5 days—the best of every habitat in the least amount of time—designed for visitors on a short vacation. Twenty-one pages at the beginning contain lists of birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles in classified order and also under 11 habitat headings.

The author's sense of humor is apparent in his introduction covering what to wear and other suggestions.

A Birdwatcher's Guide to Southern California (95 pages, index, references) may be purchased at the Lucas College Book store, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley for $1.95 plus tax, or $2.20 *postpaid* from L. & P. Photography, 2010 Hickory St., Santa Ana CA 92707.

"HAWAII'S BIRDS"

Anyone planning a trip to Hawaii should have a copy of the paperback book, *Hawaii's Birds,* published by the Hawaii Audubon Society. A helpful feature is the section containing maps of the four large islands—Oahu, Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii—with directions for reaching the most accessible birding areas and a list of some birds to be found. The main text includes the distribution, description, voice and habits of 74 species, which are illustrated by beautiful color photos and by paintings of the rare species. Among the latter is the Akaialoa—described as very rare and probably on the verge of extinction. The last known sighting was in 1960.

Forty-one additional birds are listed as migratory. One page shows the current status of introduced species. It is a real achievement to condense so much information and beauty into a lightweight 88-page field guide. The index gives both English and Hawaiian names. Published last September, this book replaces the out-of-print *Hawaiian Birds* (1959.) W. Michael Ord, President of the Hawaii Audubon Society, completely revised the text and supplied many of the photographs. The price is $2 and it may be ordered from the Hawaii Audubon Society, P.O. Box 5032, Honolulu.

In the preface, Andrew J. Berger reminds conservationists: "The status of a number of species of rare honeycreepers is poorly understood, but it seems certain that their future will be bleak, indeed, unless suitable habitat is preserved."

The Nature Conservancy has published an illustrated brochure on Maui's Kanaha Pond and the Hawaiian Black-necked Stilt—a rare resident of a threatened habitat. Kanaha Pond is Hawaii's most important remaining brackish wildlife sanctuary. The checklist of birds observed at the pond includes 47 species.

"Several years ago it was recommended that the pond be filled in as it was alleged that the birds using it constituted a hazard to aircraft operat-

ing in the vicinity. This was disproved by resulting scientific study. Future plans for destruction of this important refuge will be thwarted with public support."

The brochure is available from The Nature Conservancy, 215 Market St., San Francisco 94105.

OBSERVATIONS—*Bell's Vireos*, Pinnacles Nat. Monument, 5-12—Oliver Allen heard two of them singing and had good views of them near the creek just above the bridge near entry station.
Black and White Warbler, Tilden Park, Berkeley, 4-14—A Laurence Curl.
18 *Grasshopper Sparrows* near Gilroy, 5-26—Hans Johansen.
"On May 17 while exploring the steep south face of Wildcat Peak, Tilden Park for Rufous-crowned Sparrows in the Artemesia, I heard a song which I believed to be that of a *Black-chinned Sparrow* (which reminds me of that of the common Eastern Field Sparrow). After seeing a Black-chinned Sparrow singing yesterday (5-21 Mt. Diablo) I now believe that it was indeed one which I heard on May 17. I know of no previous reports from Tilden Park but it was reported in Strawberry and Claremont Canyons in 1928 (Grinnell & Miller, 1944)"—A. Laurence Curl.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society:
From *Berkeley* — Harold Bodenhamer, Mr. & Mrs. E. P. Frech, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Lenz, Annette Pennell; From *Oakland-Piedmont* — Elizabeth Cone, Mr. & Mrs. D. Garfinkle, Josephine Jepsen, W. J. Liddell, Lela Fay Whatley; From *San Francisco* — Jay Gershow, M.D., Donald L. Gold, Herbert & Diane Goodyear, Eugene & Nancy Hunn, James Maker, Geraldine Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Paully; From *Albany* — Mr. & Mrs. James Dewey; From *Concord* — E. Grayson Mosher; From *San Mateo* — Fred Heath; From *San Ramon* — K. M. G. Leeuwenburg.

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH, BOLINAS LAGOON

Under joint sponsorship of Golden Gate and Marin Audubon Societies to protect a major rookery of Common Egrets and Great Blue Herons.

The following gifts of remembrance were made to Canyon Ranch:

In Memory of:	*Gift of:*
Hubert Fry	Roberta R. Griffith, Florence Plymell.

—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*
854 Longridge Rd., Oakland, CA 94610.

Contributions are still needed for the Save Kent Island Fund.

Audubon Canyon Ranch had 8,000 visitors in April including 45 school and scout groups, totaling 1200 students. Naturalist C. W. Zumwalt says that Golden Gate Audubon hosts and hostesses were very helpful.

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Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Conservation Chairman	Paul F. Covel	2860 Delaware St., Oakland	94602	536-4120
Canyon Ranch Film Crmn.	Mrs. Bonnie Smith	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco	94116	681-7635

Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward THE GULL. Monthly meetings second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership, Local & National $10 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately $2 per year. Subscription to THE CYGNET, bulletin for children edited by Mrs. Nickelsburg, $1 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.